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State Dept. review completed

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Danger to Philippine security seen in reported terms for Huk surrender (page 3).
3. Viet Minh alleges it agreed to French withdrawal from Na San (page 4).

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Danger to Philippine security seen in reported terms for Huk surrender:

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The American embassy in Manila believes that the terms for surrender reportedly being offered the Huks by the Philippine army commander in central Luzon are extremely

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dangerous to Philippine security, and would ultimately afford the Communists an opportunity to infiltrate the government. [redacted]

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[redacted] the government would cease all military operations in return for the Huks' surrender of their arms.

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3. Viet Minh alleges it agreed to French withdrawal from Na San:

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[redacted] the Viet Minh is spreading propaganda that its failure to attack during the French evacuation of Na San was by agreement with the French. The Viet Minh also says that France plans to evacuate other key points in Tonkin as a first step toward arranging an armistice.

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[redacted] such propaganda could be effective inasmuch as anti-Communist Vietnamese are already worried by the possibility that the French may negotiate with the enemy.

Comment: The Bao Dai government's attempts to attract greater Vietnamese support are weakened by any suggestion that the French might pull out and leave it to meet the Viet Minh threat alone. The anti-Communist effort is also being undermined by Vietnamese doubts as to whether the United States is committed to the defense of Vietnam in the event of a French withdrawal.

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